

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-13 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /158 W

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R 161545Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5414

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCAM, DM

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS OCAM

1. MIN FOR AFF ALLADAYE CLARIFIED DAHOMEAN POSITION ON OCAM IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 13. HE WAS VERY CRITICAL OF LOCAL RADIO FOR CARRYING UNEDITED FOREIGN PRESS AGENCY REPORT OF REMARKS HE MADE IN DAKAR AFTER RECENT OCAM MEETING.

2. ALLADAYE SAID MRGD VIEWS OCAM AS A "TEMPORARY INSTITUTION." DAHOMEY'S ROLE WITHIN ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE COMPARED TO THAT OF "OBSERVER." HENCEFORTH, OCAM'S IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE BASED ON COOPERATIVE TECHNICAL SERVICES RATHER THAN ON POLITICS. WHILE AWAITING OAU AND SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CEAO TO ACTIVATE
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THEIR TECHNICAL ORGANS, OCAM CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY A USEFUL

ROLE. THIS SITUATION IS LIKELY CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. ALLADAYE THEN COMMENTED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS AT DAKAR CONFERENCE DID NOT TOTALLY UNDERSTAND SITUATION. IF ALL OF THE DELEGATIONS DECIDE TO WORK SINCERELY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. OCAM WOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST. BUT, WHEN CERTAIN DELEGATIONS REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE AND APPRECIATE THE DANGERS WHICH MENACE OCAM, SOME APPREHENSIONS ARE WARRANTED FOR FUTURE OF ORGANIZATION. IN CONCLUSION, ALLADAYE REEMPHASIZED DAHOMEAN INSISTENCE THAT "ALL AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS" MUST BE OPEN TO ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF LANGUAGE OR PAST HISTORY. HE THEN DISMISSED SENGHOR'S COMPARISON OF OCAM WITH THE COMMONWEALTH SAYING IT HIS OPINION THEY "NOT AT ALL SMAE THING. IN ANY CASE, AFRICA MUST OVERCOME CONSIDERATIONS OF LANGUAGE."

4. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM AUGUST 13, MFA DIRECTOR POL AFFAIRS COMMENTED THAT MRGD POSITION ON OCAM DICTATED TO GREAT EXTENT BY "DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS." IMPLIED THAT DAHOMEANS MIGHT ALSO HAVE QUIT OCAM HAD THESE "CONSIDERATIONS" NOT INHIBITED SUCH ACTION. TO SOME EXTENT, THESE "CONSIDERATIONS" DIRECTOR MENTIONED MAY BE BASED ON DAHOMEAN REALIZATION -- ALBEIT RELUCTANT -- OF ADVANTAGES POOR, SMALL COUNTRIES GET FROM OCAM TECHNICAL SERVICES AND COST INVOLVED IN REPLACING THEM.
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